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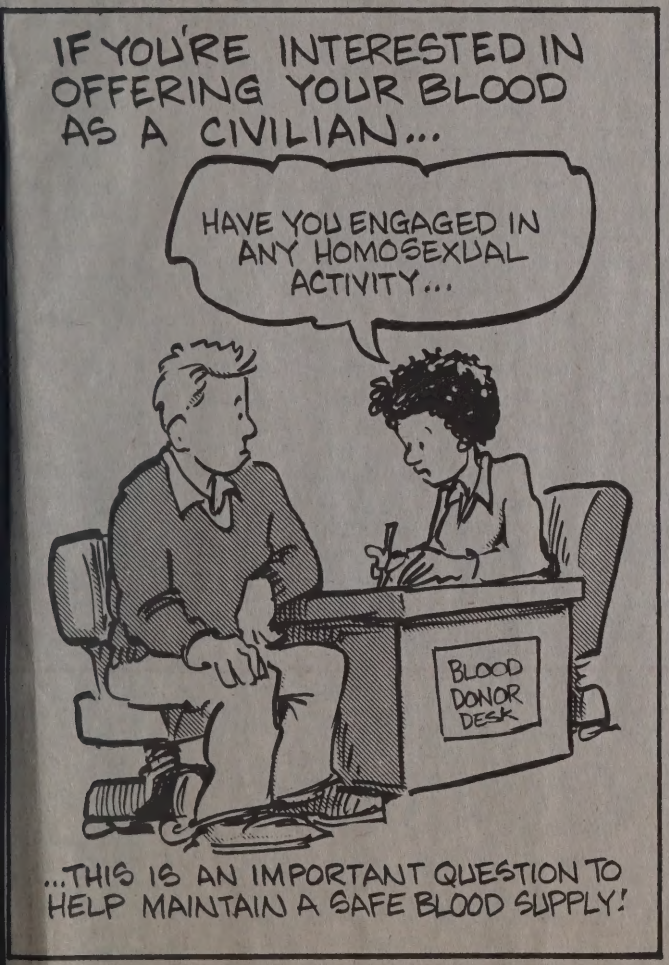

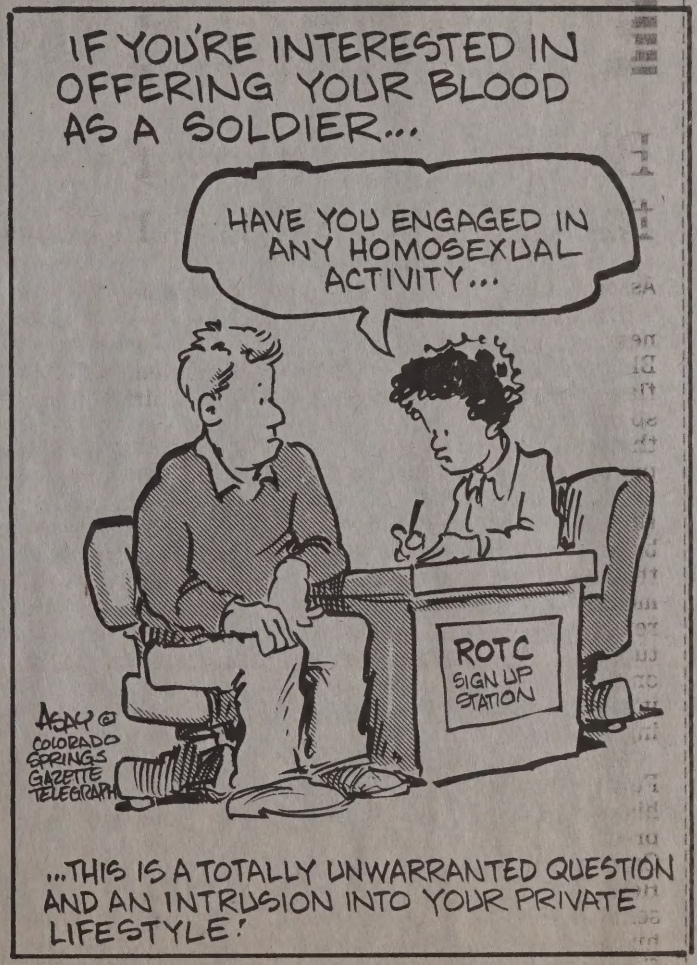

GT. 11/23/92 B6

Romer suggests reviving charter schoo

Proposal increases local control

Associated Press

DENVER — Gov. Roy Romer says a system in which parents and teachers can remove their school from the local district would increase local control and improve the quality of education in Colorado schools.

Under the "charter schools" idea, a school would be free to devise its own programs, Romer said.

He also called for a return to the system that allowed wealthy districts to far outspend their neighbors. That system ended in 1988 after complaints about the wide discrepancy in spending between rich and poor districts.

In a speech Saturday to Town Meetings West, a forum on education issues, Romer said Coloradans spoke up for local control in approving Amendment 1, which requires votes to increase taxes and spending.

"We have a new principle, and that is: Decisions are not to be made by legislative bodies, but by votes of people," Romer said.

"I disagreed with that, but it is now law and I now need to live with that."

As a result of Amendment 1 and rejection of his proposal to raise the sales tax to fund schools, the state faces a $300 million shortfall in education next year, Romer said.

"If we cannot afford to finance education at the state level unless we have a vote, then maybe we should give local jurisdictions the opportunity to have a vote to enrich their program, to reform their program by their own actions," Romer said.

Romer said the state should fund a basic program at all schools, leaving districts free to fund additional programs. He said ways might be found to redistribute existing state aid to fund some extra programs in poor school districts.

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Update On The Environment:

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The environment. It's a hot topic now and probably will be

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